

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-8 are cancelled. New claims 9-12 are added, which correspond to claims 1, 3, 4 and 8, respectively. Claim 9 directly corresponds to claim 1 as submitted in the Amendment filed on December 7, 2007 with the following changes:

1. (currently amended): A tire vulcanizing mold comprising an inner peripheral shape corresponding to the surface of a tire tread portion, and configured by assembling a plurality of circumferentially segmented pieces, wherein at least one of said plurality of segmented pieces has a generally round-bar-shaped pin protectors on an assembling face between an adjoining segmented piece in a projecting manner therefrom, and said adjoining segmented piece has a first radial depressed grooves of generally arcuate in cross section to be fitted with said pin protectors on an assembling face between said segmented pieces to be assembled, and said at least one of the segmented pieces has second radial depressed grooves ~~of which are~~ generally arcuate in cross section and provided plurally and axially spaced in an axial a radial direction for fixing the pin protectors.

Claim 10 directly corresponds to claim 3 as submitted in the Amendment filed on December 7, 2007 with the following changes:

3. (currently amended): The tire vulcanizing mold according to claim 1 wherein said second depressed grooves provided in said at least one segmented piece and said first depressed grooves provided in said adjoining segmented piece have generally the same diameter.

Applicants are making the foregoing amendments to the claims and presenting them as new claims in response to the telephone call from the Examiner on December 27, 2007, indicating that the claims would be allowable if (1) amended to define the invention consistent with the disclosure and (2) inadvertent omissions from the previous amendment, including the omission of claims 7 and 8 as well as the failure to properly label claims 5 and 6 as “withdrawn,”

are corrected. The cancellation of the previously pending claims and the addition of the new claims by this amendment will place the application into allowable form.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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